

Message Text

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TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO: PRC PROPOSAL FOR ICAO POLICY REVIEW

REF: 75 MONTREAL 1053

1. WHEN COUNCIL CONSIDERED NEXT SESSIONS WORK PROGRAM ON APRIL 14 (CWP 6342) CHINA TOOK FLOOR TO REACTIVATE HIS PROPOSAL OF LAST SUMMER FOR A REVIEW OF ICAO POLICY AND ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER THIS TIME IT WAS CLOAKED IN WRAPPER OF PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL ADDRESS. PRC REP ASKED THAT THE FAREWELL SPEECH OF PRESIDENT BINAGHI BE A DISSERTATION ON ICAO POLICY BASED ON HIS 19 YEARS AS PRESIDENT WITH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS POLICY STATEMENTS PRESIDENT MIGHT INCLUDE. PRC REP POINTED OUT THAT ICAO HAS CHANGED GREATLY OVER THE YEARS. IT IS A "MUCH ENLARGED MEMBERSHIP AND A REAL WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY OF AVIATION." HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT HOW ICAO SHOULD BE "REORIENTED" TO COPE WITH THIS CHANGED ORGANIZATION AND POLICY TRENDS. HE ASKED THAT WHEN COUNCIL HAS THE BENEFITS OF THE WORDS OF WISDOM OF THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT BINAGHI THERE SHOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AND "FOR SOME COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ENDORSE CERTAIN VIEWS" AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS GENERALLY. THE REP OF SENEGAL REMEMBERS THE PRC PROPOSAL FROM LAST JUNE AND THE SWEDEN STATEMENT

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(SEE REFTTEL) REGARDING "SOME POLICY PROBLEMS". HE EXPRESSED

CONCERN HOWEVER THAT WHILE A FAREWELL ADDRESS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL AND INTERESTING, A "POLICY REVIEW IS SOMETHING ELSE." THE UK INTERVENED POINTING OUT CAREFULLY THAT HE WAS ALWAYS PLEASED TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE BUT IF THERE WAS TO BE ANY COMMENT ON THE ADDRESS IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CIRCULATED IN ADVANCE. THIS KICKED OFF SEVERAL INTERVENTIONS AND THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF MADE NO EFFORT TO HIDE HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPOSAL. BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA SUGGESTED INFORMAL MEETINGS FOR THE EXCHANGE, BUT UK POINTED OUT THAT FAREWELL SPEECHES ARE ALWAYS IN FORMAL COUNCIL AND CERTAINLY THE PRESIDENT'S SHOULD BE. USREP INDICATED CONFUSION BECAUSE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT TWO THINGS: A) A FAREWELL ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL WHICH SHOULD NOT APPEAR ON THE COUNCIL'S WORK PROGRAM; AND/OR B) AN ICAO POLICY REVIEW WHICH WOULD REQUIRE PREPARATION BY THE SECRETARIAT AS WELL AS MEMBER STATES, AND COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS EARLY AS NEXT SESSION (IN SIX WEEKS). USREP STATED THAT POLICY REVIEWS WERE GOOD AND IN FACT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INTERNALLY HAD AN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION POLICY REVIEW UNDER WAY AT THE MOMENT BUT SUCH A REVIEW IN ICAO WAS A MAJOR UNDERTAKING AND IF IT WAS TO BE ON THE WORK PROGRAM IT SHOULD ALLOW AMPLE TIME FOR PREPARATION. THIS SEEMED TO SERVE THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING ON SECOND THOUGHTS BE MEMBERS. THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT WE PUT ON THE WORK PROGRAM "COMMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT ON TRENDS IN ICAO, AND QUESTIONS IF ANY" WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NO STATEMENTS WERE TO BE MADE AND HE WOULD ANSWER QUESTIONS SIMPLY, BASED ON HIS MANY YEARS IN ICAO. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT MOROCCO WAS TALKING ABOUT "REORGANIZING" ICAO AT THE SAME TIME CHINA BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF A MAJOR REVIEW LAST YEAR. HOWEVER THIS ITEM APPEARS ON THE WORK PROGRAM, CHINA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE THE OCCASION TO CONGRATULATE THE ORGANIZATION ON ITS EXPANDING DEVELOPING-WORLD MEMBERSHIP AND HARANGUE THE MAJOR AVIATION POWERS.

2. USREP WILL TALK TO PRESIDENT/COUNCIL IN EARLY JUNE TO GET A FEEL FOR HIS PRESENTATION. BUT WHATEVER THE PRESENTATION THE US AND PERHAPS OTHER STATES WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS SHOULD BE PREPARED WITH SOME "SUGGESTIVE QUESTIONS" TO COUNTERACT WHAT UNDOUBTEDLY WILL DEGENERATE INTO A POLITICAL OPPORTUNITY.

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